STATUS OF WOMEN - CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the first meeting of the Curriculum Committee held on Friday, April 4 at 12:00 p.m. at 2030 MacKay Street.

ATTENDANCE: Present were: B. Barclay, G. Hochmann, C. Rutherford, J. Woodsworth and M. Yates.

Guest: H. Workman.

Absent: S. Hyman, C. MacKenzie and I. Fitzpatrick-Martin.

The first meeting was held informally. There was no agenda to follow.

G. Hochmann proposed that a chair be elected as the most pressing item of business. She discounted herself and J. Woodsworth, both on sabbatical later this year.

Barbara Barclay was chosen chair and agreed to serve. Madeleine Yates volunteered to serve as secretary to the committee.

Catherine Rutherford introduced Helen Workman who expressed an interest in serving as a member of the committee.

A general discussion developed around the issue of avenues to be explored in critically examining the curriculum for sexism if it does indeed exist.

For the moment, we will restrict ourselves to the undergraduate curriculum. Reasons - greater numbers of undergraduates as well as other problems (not mentioned) in dealing with graduate curriculum.

The CUS-Book was mentioned as a possible place to find the breakdown of male/female undergraduate students by program.

G. Hochmann is expecting information from the Dean of Arts and Science office about the General Education Committee.

J. Woodworth promised to search out her copy of the report and gave a synopsis of the Committee's findings which the university found too costly to implement. They found a solution in requiring students to do a minor in areas where they were deficient (viz-a-viz a well rounded general education). C. Rutherford pointed out the risk of students being directed to do women's studies courses to fulfill this need rather than having the woman's point-of-view represented in every aspect of education as for example - reading lists in all programs carrying female as well as male authors.

It was agreed that M. Yates would obtain whatever course outlines (guides) were available from Liaison by the next meeting. It was felt that they could be used as a jumping off point in doing some sort of content analysis of the curriculum.

Also discussed - personal visits to department chairs to express committee's concerns. Making use of the Learning Development Centre - seminars, newsletters, course evaluations. The importance of SCAD - Senate Committee on Academic Development being changed shortly to SCAP - Senate Committee on Academic Priorities - J. Woodsworth is a retiring member. The point was made that it was important that her replacement be female with a sympathetic viewpoint.

An optimum number of members for the committee was fixed at 10. New members would be accepted until this umber was reached.
The Committee agreed that Helen Workman should become a member.

The meeting ended at 1:30 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 15, at 1:00 p.m.. 2030 MacKay Street.